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Misao Kurokiri Presents
黒霧操

Flower of My Heart

By Kurokiri Misao

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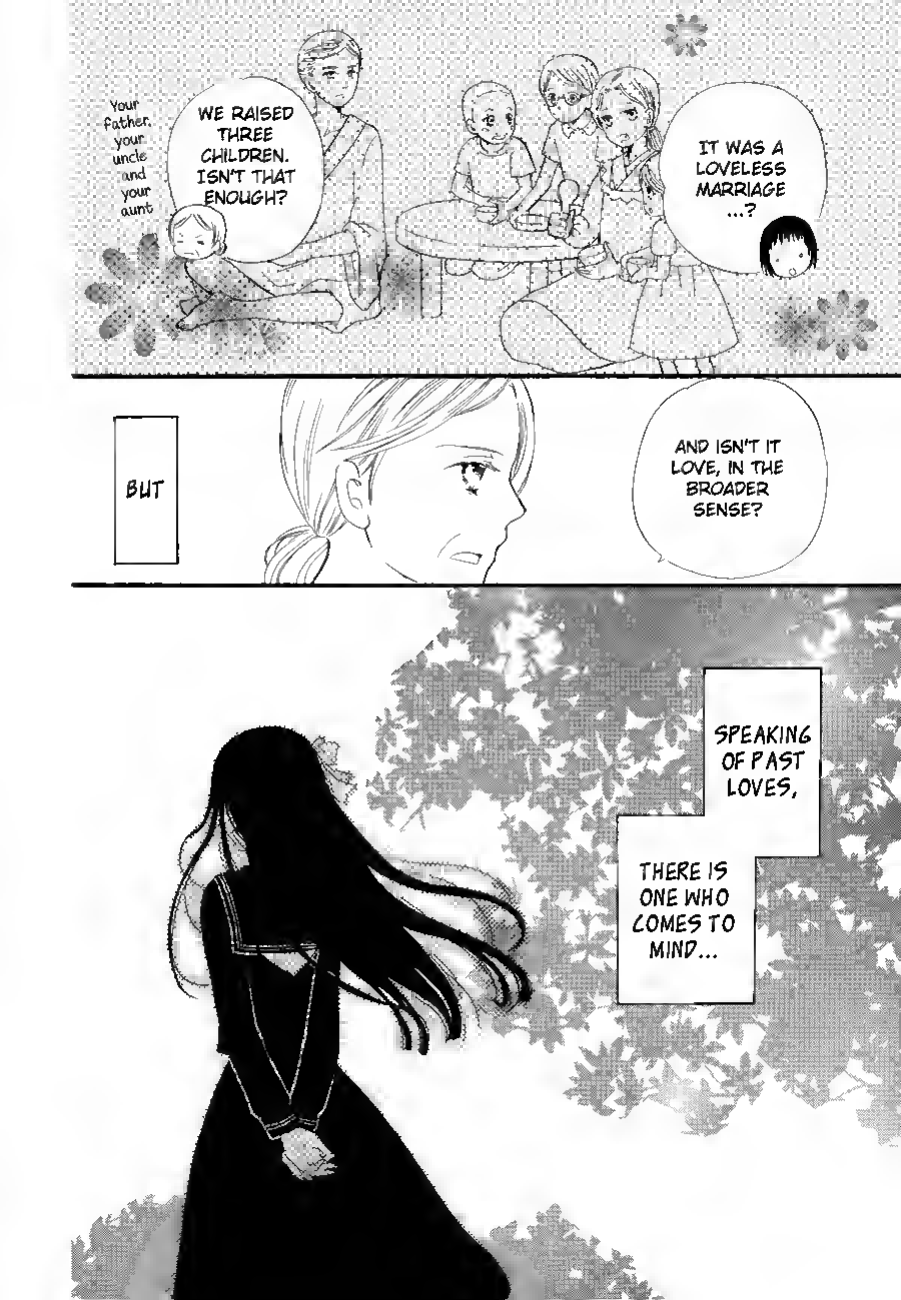
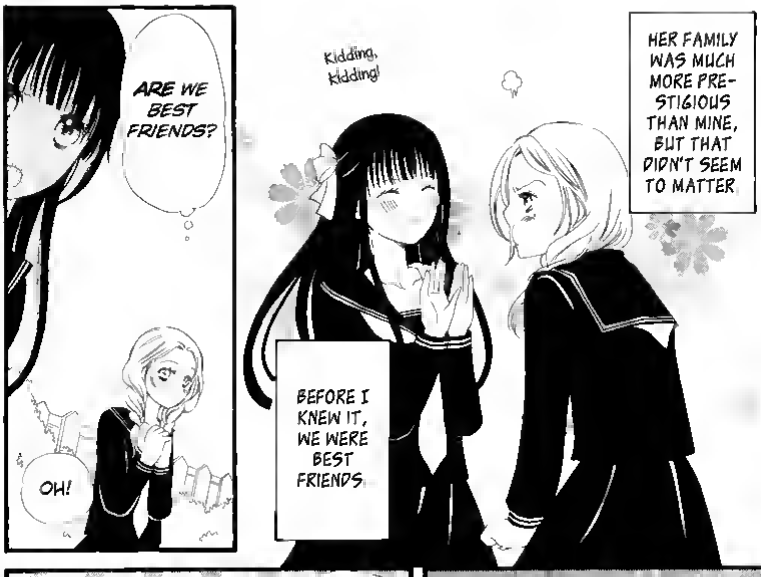
Flower of My Heart
THIS ALWAYS HAPPENS WHEN SAYO SLEEPS OVER ON THE WEEKEND.
YUKA'S STILL NOT UP. THAT GIRL!
WELL, YOU KNOW HOW TEENAGERS LOVE TO GAB UP A STORM ON THEIR SLEEPOVERS.
AT LEAST THEY'RE NOT GETTING INTO ANY TROUBLE. WHERE'S THE HARM?
HONEST-LY!
HOW LONG DO YOU IN-TEND TO LAZE AROUND IN BED?

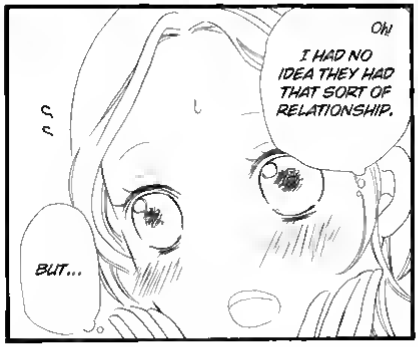
YUKA!
MORNING, GRANDMA.
Yaawn
MORNING? IT'S NOON! AND WHAT IS THIS MESS? YOU'VE STREWN YOUR UNIFORMS ALL OVER THE FLOOR!
Okay, okay.
YOU'RE SO STRICT...

I ABHOR A MESSY ROOM.
Hmph!
...WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU EXPECTING FROM AN OLD LADY LIKE ME?
WHY NOT?
...YOU'RE NOT SAYING ANYTHING ABOUT THIS, THOUGH.
QUIVER QUIVER
EHEHE!
SOME-THING IN YOUR PAST?
YOUR GRANDFATHER AND I HAD AN ARRANGED MARRIAGE. WE DIDN'T MARRY FOR LOVE.
WELL... IN MY DAY, ROMANTIC LOVE WASN'T THE BE-ALL, END-ALL, LIKE IT IS TODAY.
I JUST WANNA HEAR A LOVE STORY FROM YOUR PAST, MITCHAN.
Grandma Mitsu
...
WHAAT?


Your father, your uncle and your aunt
WE RAISED THREE CHILDREN. ISN'T THAT ENOUGH?
IT WAS A LOVELESS MARRIAGE ...?
BUT
AND ISN'T IT LOVE, IN THE BROADER SENSE?
SPEAKING OF PAST LOVES,
THERE IS ONE WHO COMES TO MIND...

MITSUUUU! HURRY UP!
IT WAS BACK WHEN I WAS A YOUNG GIRL, STILL INNOCENT OF THE WORLD...
WAIT UP, YUKIE!
THE ROSES AREN'T GOING ANYWHERE.
YOU HAVE TO SEE THE PRETTY ROSES I FOUND.
WELL, AT YOUR PACE, THEY MIGHT WILT BEFORE WE GET THERE.
!!
THAT'S SO MEAN!!
I MET YUKIE AT SCHOOL


ARE WE BEST FRIENDS?
OH!
Kidding, kidding!
BEFORE I KNEW IT, WE WERE BEST FRIENDS.
HER FAMILY WAS MUCH MORE PRESTIGIOUS THAN MINE, BUT THAT DIDN'T SEEM TO MATTER.

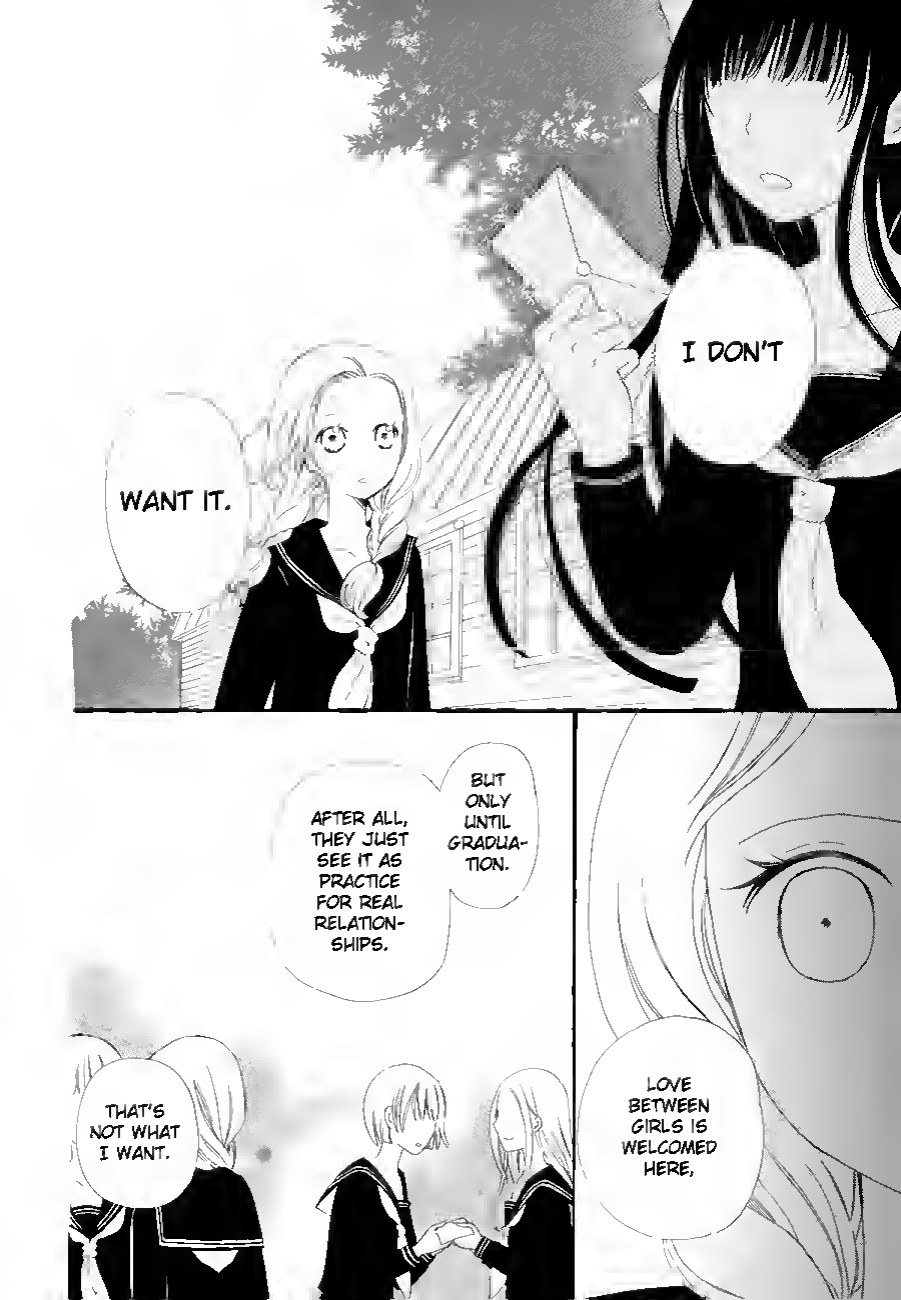


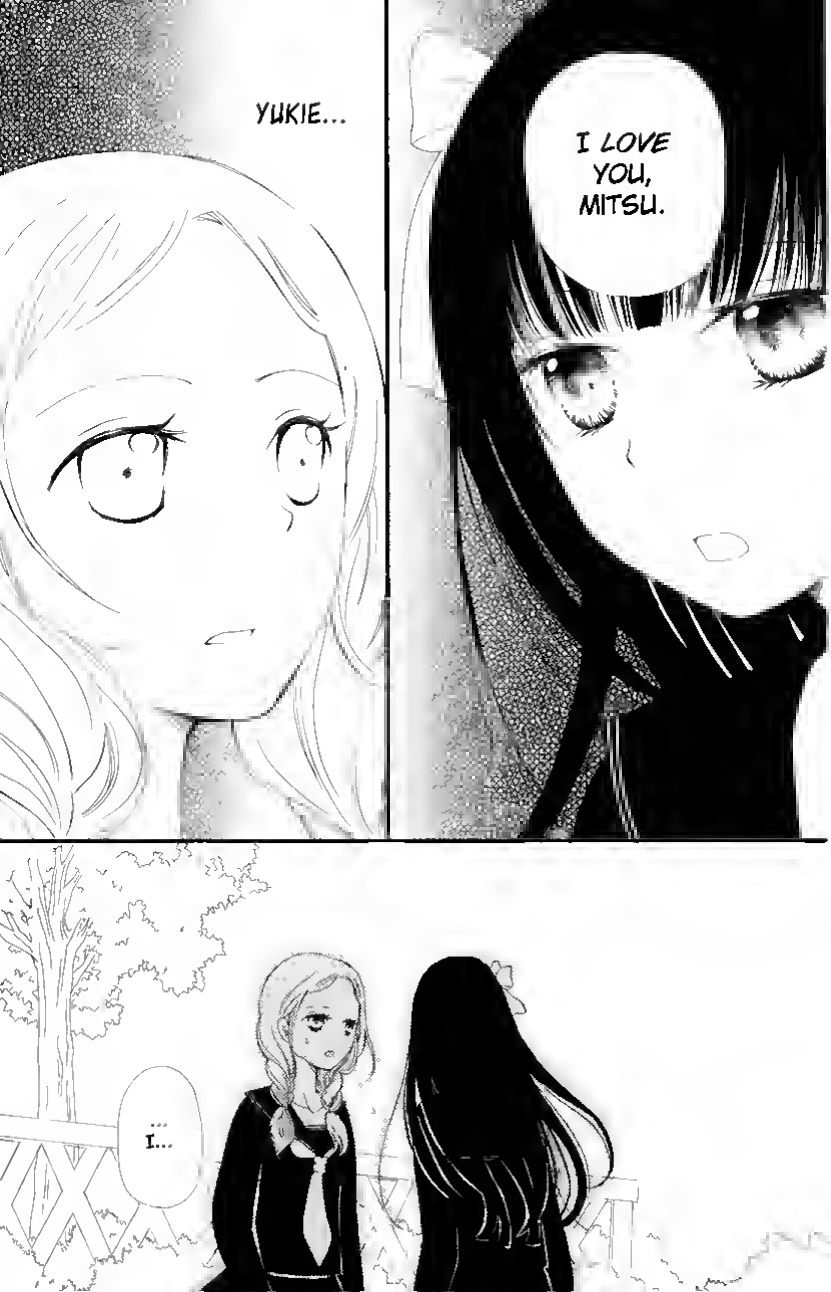
T/N. In this case "Onee-sama" is a term used to respectfully address or refer to an older girl particularly a girl one admires or has a bond with

I SUPPOSE IT'S NOT SO UNUSUAL I'VE HEARD ABOUT IT HAPPENING ...
I SEE GIRLS EXCHANGING LETTERS ALL THE TIME ..
AND EVEN I.....
IT'S GETTING CHILLY OUT HERE.
WHY DON'T WE GO BACK TO THE DORM AND HAVE A CUP OF TEA?
IF I WANT...

TO TELL HER HOW I FEEL... I SHOULD DO IT IN A LETTER, RIGHT?
OH?
ARE YOU WRITING A LETTER, MITSU?
HMM, COULD IT BE A LOVE LETTER♥ FOR YUKIE-SAN?
!!
W-WELL, I DON'T WANT TO PUT HER OUT...
HOW DID YOU...
WE'VE KNOWN FOR AGES.
WE'VE BEEN WONDERING WHY YOU HAVEN'T TOLD HER HOW YOU FEEL.
DON'T WORRY. YOU GUYS ARE SO CLOSE,
I CAN'T IMAGINE SHE'D BE UPSET BY IT.

...
O-OKAY!
YOU HAVE TO BE BRAVE!
IS FROM YOU, RIGHT?
THIS
NO.
badum badum
D-DID YOU READ IT?


I DON'T
WANT IT.
LOVE BETWEEN GIRLS IS WELCOMED HERE,
BUT ONLY UNTIL GRADUA-TION.
AFTER ALL, THEY JUST SEE IT AS PRACTICE FOR REAL RELATION-SHIPS.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANT.


YUKIE...
I LOVE YOU, MITSU.
...
I...

I DIDN'T TAKE IT SERIOUSLY, LIKE YOU SAID...
WAS JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.
BUT...
YUKIE...

IF THAT'S
WHAT YOU WANT,
I'LL FALL DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO THESE FEELINGS FOR YOU.

NOT AS A PLAY-FUL DIVERSION, A WASTE OF OUR PRECIOUS TIME ON THIS MORTAL COIL...
WE WERE DESPERATELY SEEKING AN ETERNAL LOVE, THE KIND THAT WAS BOUND TO LEAVE SCARS ON BOTH OUR SOULS.

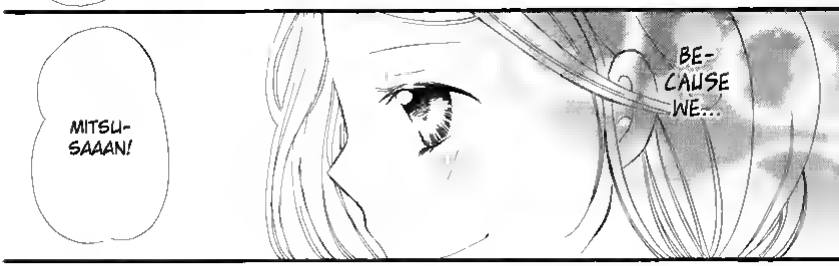
MAYBE WE'VE GONE BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES OF WHAT'S ACCEPT-ABLE.
BUT...
PROBABLY. THEY'D SAY IT WAS DIRTY.
Well...
BUT A RE-LATIONSHIP LIKE THIS WOULD PROBABLY BE OUT OF THE QUESTION FOR THEM, HUH?
OTHER GIRLS MAY CONFESS THEIR FEEL-INGS TO EACH OTHER,
YEAH...
BUT I LIKE IT.
WE'VE CONNECTED ON A LEVEL NONE OF THEM EVER HAVE.

WRITING LETTERS, USING MATCHING HANDKER-CHIEFS...

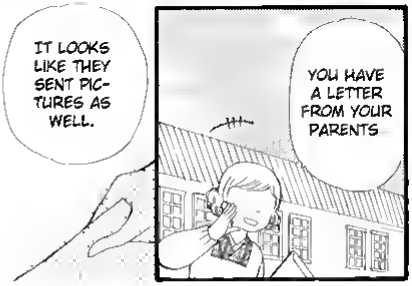
HEY, MITSU,
ARE YOU EXCHANGING LETTERS WITH YUKIE-SAN?

HUH? WHY NOT?
NO, WE DON'T NEED TO DO THAT.

WE HAVE NO NEED FOR SUCH THINGS.

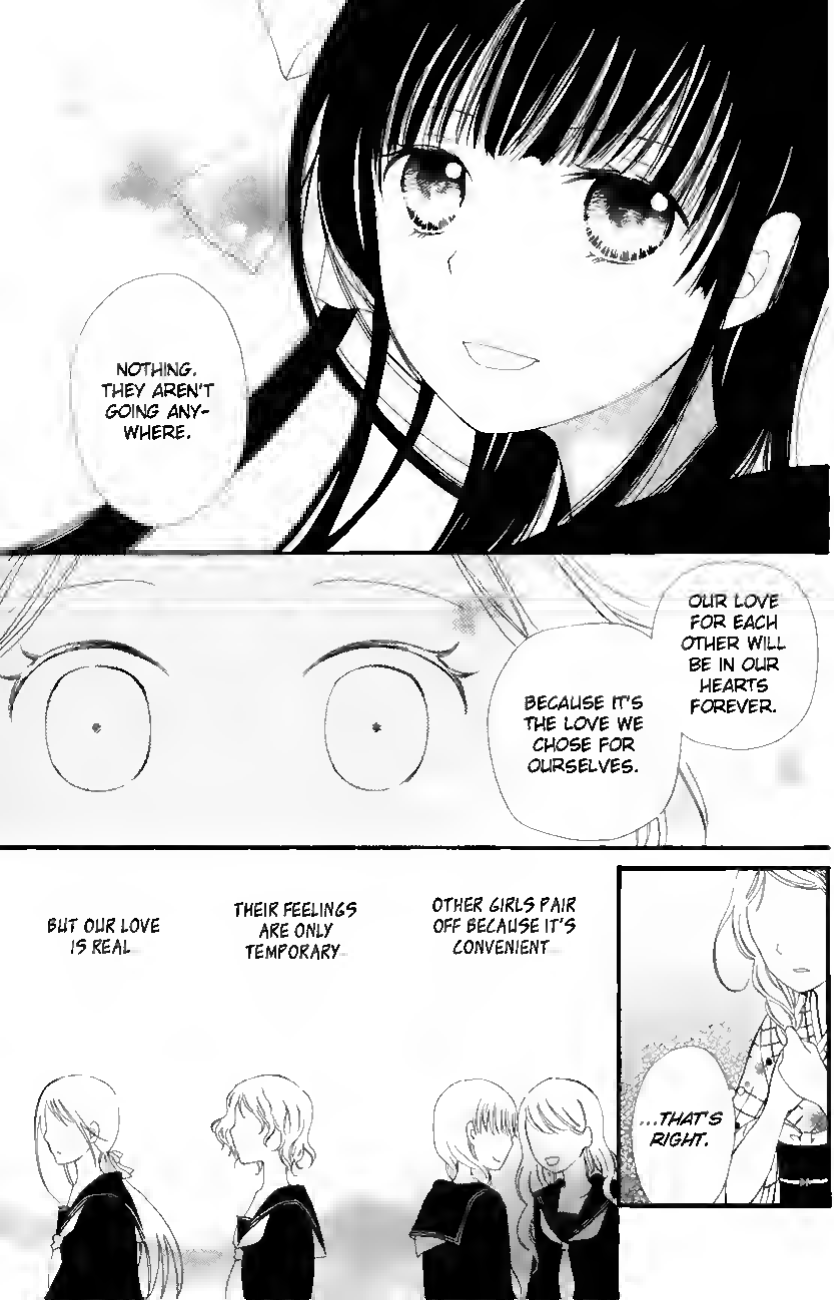

MITSU-SAAAN!
BE-CAUSE WE...

HUH ...?


IT LOOKS LIKE THEY SENT PIC-TURES AS WELL.
YOU HAVE A LETTER FROM YOUR PARENTS

...
WE'LL BE GRADUATING SOON,
SO THIS IS THE TIME FOR IT.
I DON'T WANT AN ARRANGED MARRIAGE.
MY HEART IS ALREADY TAKEN...
MITSU ...
YOU NEED TO PUT ON A HAPPY FACE BEFORE YOU GO.
BUT...

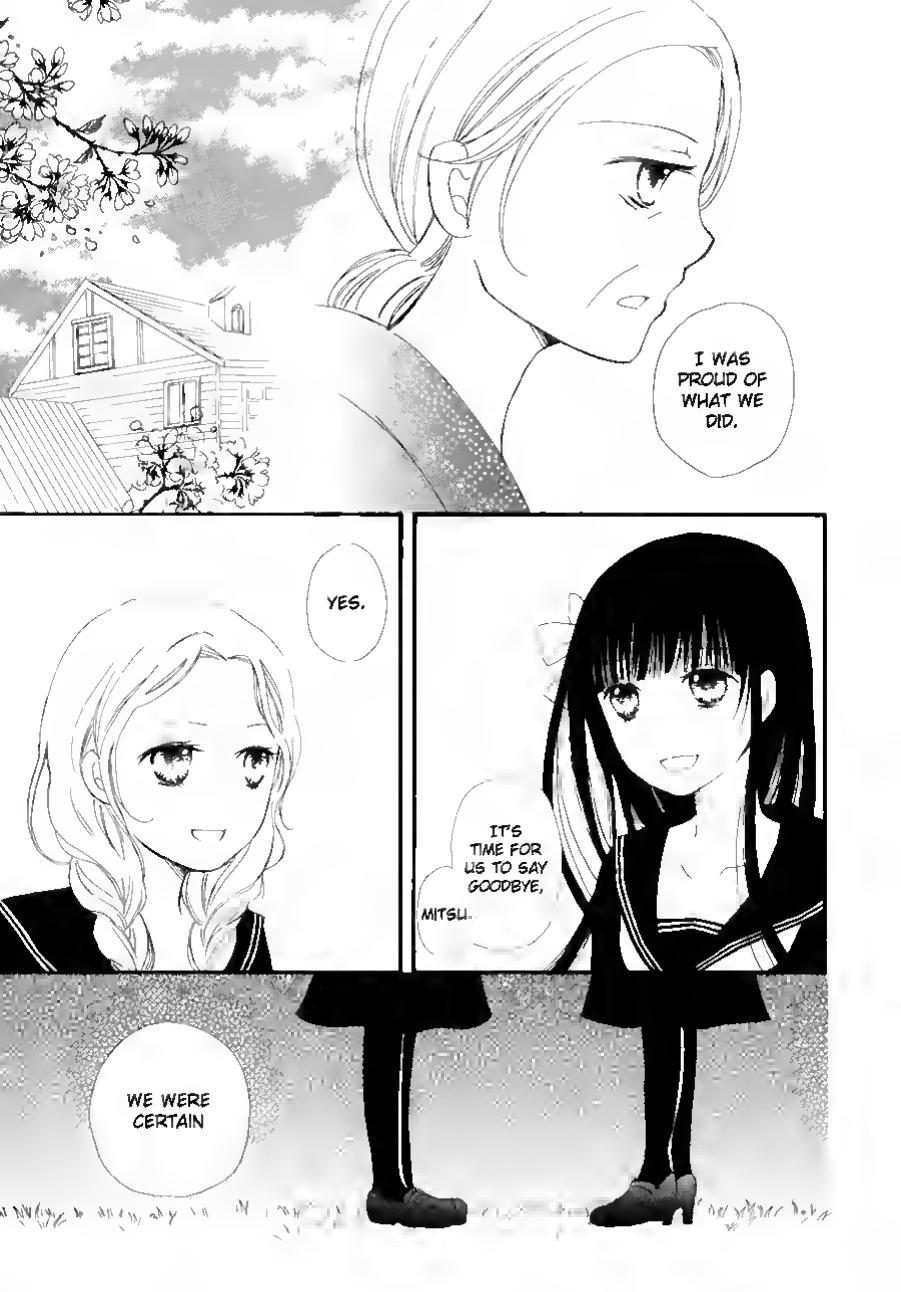
I LOVE YOU.
SO I WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY.
AND FOR THAT, YOU'LL NEED TO GET MARRIED...
...I KNOW.
BUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY FEELINGS FOR YOU, YUKIE?


NOTHING. THEY AREN'T GOING ANY-WHERE.
OUR LOVE FOR EACH OTHER WILL BE IN OUR HEARTS FOREVER.
BECAUSE IT'S THE LOVE WE CHOSE FOR OURSELVES.
BUT OUR LOVE IS REAL
THEIR FEELINGS ARE ONLY TEMPORARY
OTHER GIRLS PAIR OFF BECAUSE IT'S CONVENIENT
...THAT'S RIGHT.

SO.....
I ACCEPTED AN ARRANGED MARRIAGE WITH YOUR GRAND-FATHER.
WE WERE WED SHORTLY AFTER MY GRADUATION.
BUT WHAT HAPPENED WITH YUKIE-SAN?

WE NEVER EXCHANGED LETTERS.
AND I NEVER ONCE SAW HER AFTER WE GRADUATED.
BUT YUKIE CAME FROM A GOOD FAMILY,
SO PERHAPS SHE WAS ALREADY ENGAGED TO A YOUNG MAN OF SIMILAR STATUS AT THE TIME,
AND WENT ON TO MARRY HIM.
BUT THAT'S.....

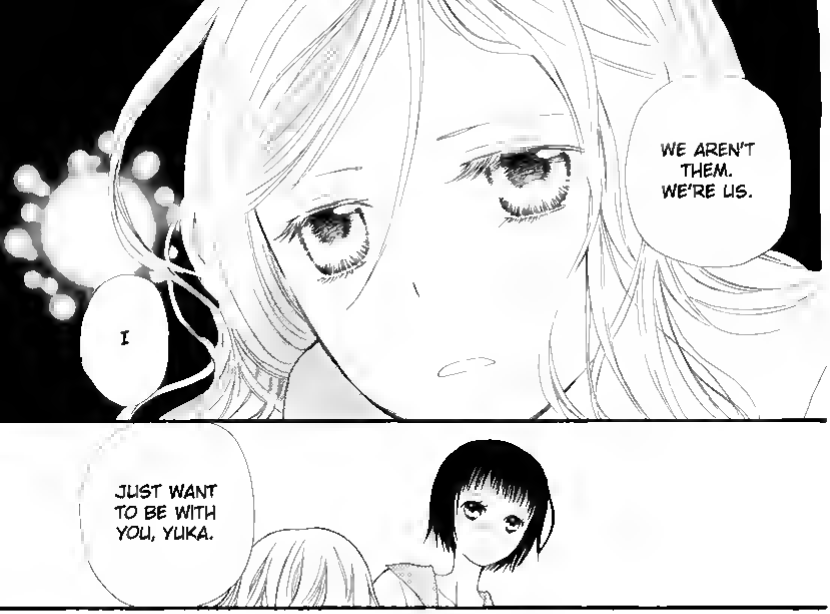
THAT'S NOT RIGHT!!
YOU BOTH MARRIED OTHER PEOPLE, DIDN'T YOU?!
SO YOU ENDED UP BREAKING UP AFTER ALL!!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANT.
I WANT TO BE WITH THE ONE I LOVE.


I WAS PROUD OF WHAT WE DID.
YES.
IT'S TIME FOR US TO SAY GOODBYE, MITSU.
WE WERE CERTAIN

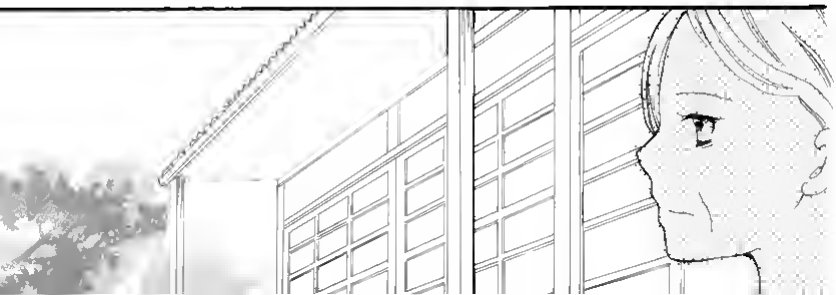
THAT THERE WAS NOTHING TO BE SAD ABOUT,
BECAUSE MY FEELINGS WOULD CONTINUE
AND I SENSED THAT YUKIE FELT THE SAME WAY.
I DON'T NEED TO KNOW WHERE SHE IS NOW, OR WHAT SHE'S DOING.
THAT WAS ENOUGH FOR ME.

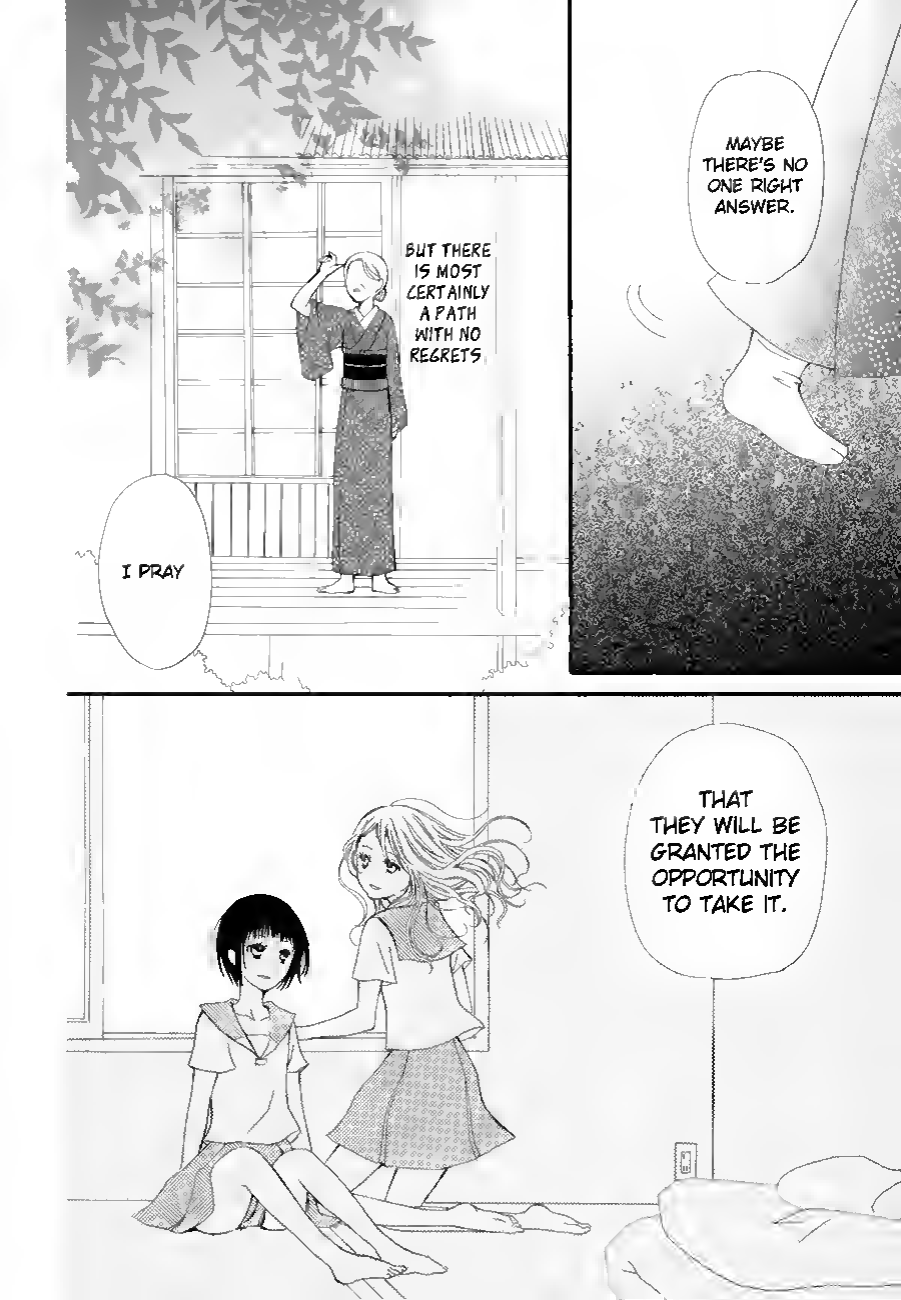
I CAN STILL SAY WITH CONFIDENCE THAT...
OUR FEELINGS ARE THE SAME.
AND THAT IS MY LOVE STORY.

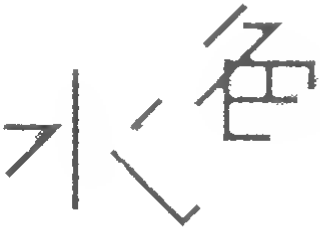
I CAN START BREAKFAST, THEN!
...
ARE YUKA AND HER FRIEND AWAKE?
YES, THEY ARE.
OH! GRANNY!
SHE WASN'T SATISFIED WITH THAT AT ALL.
BUT
SNUGGLE
YOU WERE AWAKE, SAYO?
MAYBE THAT'S FOR THE BEST...


I
WE AREN'T THEM. WE'RE US.

JUST WANT TO BE WITH YOU, YUKA.




MAYBE THERE'S NO ONE RIGHT ANSWER.
BUT THERE IS MOST CERTAINLY A PATH WITH NO REGRETS
I PRAY
THAT THEY WILL BE GRANTED THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE IT.



aqua blue ether

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MIZUIRO-ETHER